

# The Panhandle and Southwestern Stockmen's Association

## Its Organization, History and Industrial Purpose

**By W. S. Harrell**

**OF EL PASO**  
Secretary of the Association.

Nineteen years ago, in the town of Canadian, Texas, in Hemphill county, twenty-six true and tried cattlemen founded the organization that today is known as the Panhandle and Southwestern Cattlemen's association.

From that beginning backed by the earnest effort of the founders and those whom they have associated with them, there today has grown an organization of 1,200 men, a number which it is hoped to increase 20 per cent at the meeting soon to be held in

Albuquerque. Difficulties have been encountered from the start, but each has been overcome, and today the organization is the most flourishing of its type anywhere. If, indeed, there can be said to be another of its type.

What it means to belong to this association cannot be told in words; its members say, one must belong to it to appreciate the aid it is in fighting the battles attendant upon successful prosecution of the cattle business.

This association of cattlemen has as its chief object the elimination of cattle stealing, the apprehending of cattle thieves and their prosecution. The association maintains a staff of detectives and inspectors who range riders who are sent from one portion of the cattle country to another in their search for thieves. The organization not only apprehends cattle rustlers, but also prevents theft and in most instances goes after the stolen property and stays on the job until it has been found. All the expense of these operations are taken care of by the association.

Inspectors are maintained at all the principal market centers for the protection of the association members. At these centers the inspectors are always on the lookout for cattle carrying the brands of members of the association and stock having been reported stolen. Field men are also employed along the lines of the railroads to see that stolen stock is not shipped out of the country.

In 1913 the association took from other people 3,200 head of cattle that had been stolen from members. This stock represented a value of at least \$128,000. In 1914 1500 head were recovered, stealing in localities thickly populated with members of the association, having decreased over 1513, due to the activities of the association, its inspectors and detectives. The report of the association setting forth the number of head recovered in 1915 will be made at the Albuquerque convention in March.

Unfortunately, New Mexico has had

such a small membership in this association that it has been impossible to extend to the small and scattered members in this state all of the benefits of protection that have been enjoyed by the members residing in Texas. However, the membership from New Mexico has grown rapidly during the past year, and it is expected that following the convention in Albuquerque arrangements will be made by the association to extend its full activities into this state. The association has already promised that every section of the state shall be represented upon the executive committee after the next election, and that every section will be accorded inspection and protection provided the cattlemen of New Mexico respond to the association's call.

The association is supported by membership fees, initiation fees and a general levy of three and a half cents on each head of stock returned by members for taxation. The initiation fee is \$5 a year, the annual dues

the interest of the cattle industry. The individual body has for its object the betterment of conditions through legislation. You should encourage these efforts with a membership in the Panhandle association. This association also takes up matters of state legislation, and will do so here in New Mexico if you support it. Also, it will take your case up with the forest service officials and with the department of the interior whenever demanded by the member of the executive committee who will represent you from your section if a good membership roll is secured.

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the scope and power of the organization are well evidenced by its steady growth and constantly enlarging scope.

### Annual Cowboys' Reunion At Las Vegas Breaks Into National Limelight

The policy of the "Square Deal" for all contestants has gained more commendation of a favorable sort for the Las Vegas Cowboys' Reunion than any single feature of a similar event that has come to public notice in some time. "The Wild Bunch," of Chicago, official organ of the contest riders and Wild West folks, gives the reunion two strong boosts in its January and December numbers, which probably will do more than any equal amount of space elsewhere to bring good riders and other experts to the coming reunion in July. The stories follow:

**Cowboys' Reunion Slogan.**

"Square deal to all contest boys if we don't make a dime."

Youngest show of 'em all to be a real one.

1916 contest at Las Vegas, New Mexico, to rank among the big ones.

It's going to pay every contest hand to keep his eye on the 1916 Cowboys' Reunion at Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Any show that has for its foundation the spirit of the square deal, instead of that of money-making, is bound to succeed and succeed big, and who is there that doesn't want to be tied up with a success? You can figure, and keep right on figuring, not after all is the contestant, the real hand, who makes the show. You absolutely

cannot do without him. It's exactly like trying to pull off a turkey shoot without the presence of the gobblers or building a brand new man and leaving out his backbone and heart. If there ever was an outfit that realized this fact and realized it from the ground up, it's the bunch from the Cowboys' Reunion at Las Vegas. And come to think of it, how can they help realizing this important factor when they themselves are common cowboys?

That brings us to realize that the Cowboys' Reunion is the only show of its kind owned, operated and controlled exclusively by cow hands. These boys know what a real contest is; they know how it ought to be staged; and they've got the zazz to put it over" in A-1 fashion. The Las Vegas boys have adopted a slogan which is worth while perusing and one they'd like to have every hand cut out and paste to his hat. Here it is:

"A square deal to all contest boys at the Cowboys' Reunion at Las Vegas if the management don't make a dime."

A True Story About the Policy of the Cowboys' Reunion.

The boys would rather dig deep down in their own jeans and bring forth real personal cash, than have

one of the contestants leave the grounds saying he will not be given a belt on that they haven't had a square deal. And the New Mexico boys find this policy paying. Last year they pulled off their first show with only two months of preparation. In the contests appeared 117 men and every one of these hands at the finish of the Reunion agreed that they had had a fair, square deal. To show the spirit of Reunion management, there was a little question of places in one of the paces and before the two contestants left Las Vegas they had laid the still prize money tucked away in their pockets.

The leaders who put on the first show have now formed themselves into what is called "The Cowboys' Reunion Association." Walt Naylor, a young man well known in New Mexico and Texas, is the president and general manager of the 1916 Reunion. The board of directors, arena director and official committee-men are all real hands actively engaged in the cow business.

As the primary object of the show is not to make money but rather to put on a doings that will give everyone a good time, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that the Reunion managers will pull any zip stuff on the contest boys if for no other reason than on the basis that it looks too much like giving the roose that dropped the golden egg.

The contests of the Reunion are open to the wide world. No "water-hole" vision for this bunch. They've got the best to offer and they want the best in the way of talent.

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And to come right down to it, by gassys, how many of the boys could keep these silver mounted white elephants—and tell us about ever one that rode comfortable? Did not You, Friend Reader, if you are a hand, know blamed well there isn't anything else on this old round piece of turf of ours that sounds so good, looks so good, feels so good and is so good as a herd of Uncle Sam's silver elephants clinkingly corralled in your little old left-hand pocket. The Reunion boys know this rat well simply because they've all been through the mill themselves.

And, get this—When a contestant makes a big win at the Las Vegas

show he will not be given a belt on which will be engraved, information that he is "champion of the world." You know and we know that a lot of this stuff is bunk. What the boy will get will be a worth while souvenir on which will be the simple words, "Winner Such and Such an Event, Cowboys' Reunion, Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1916." With the Reunion growing bigger each year as it surely will, these few words will mean more than some of the so-called "world's champion" belts that are seen reposing on the bay windows of a few toy stores. Nope, they can't all be champs of the universe, but if they've got the spizzerinktum they all can be

winners. Hey—what?

In closing, or to put it like one of the boys, "before cutting off the gas," our attention is directed to that one word, "Reunion." This word was not just accidentally picked up, its presence in the name of the New Mexico show has a real, definite meaning. What is it that makes your fingers itch to get each month's issue of the "Wild Bunch"? Is it to read the advertisements or view the decorations? Is it? You bet it is not. What you want to know is, how old Buck Waters is up there in Woopumpit is making. As we take our leave our hand is in your hand, our eye to your eye, and our partner, we sure mean it, from

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**RESOURCES**

Loans and Discounts	\$3,228,171.40
Overdrafts	1,413.89
Bonds, Securities, Etc.	93,072.12
Banking House and Furniture	50,000.00
United States Bonds	\$ 525,000.00
Cash and Exchange	1,289,658.91
Total	\$1,814,658.91
	\$5,187,316.32

**LIABILITIES**

Capital	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus and Profits	206,851.32
Circulation	100,000.00
Deposits	1,180,135.00
Total	\$5,187,316.32

*The Policy of the Officers and Directors of the First National Bank is to maintain its well-earned*

*reputation for Safety and Conservatism*

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